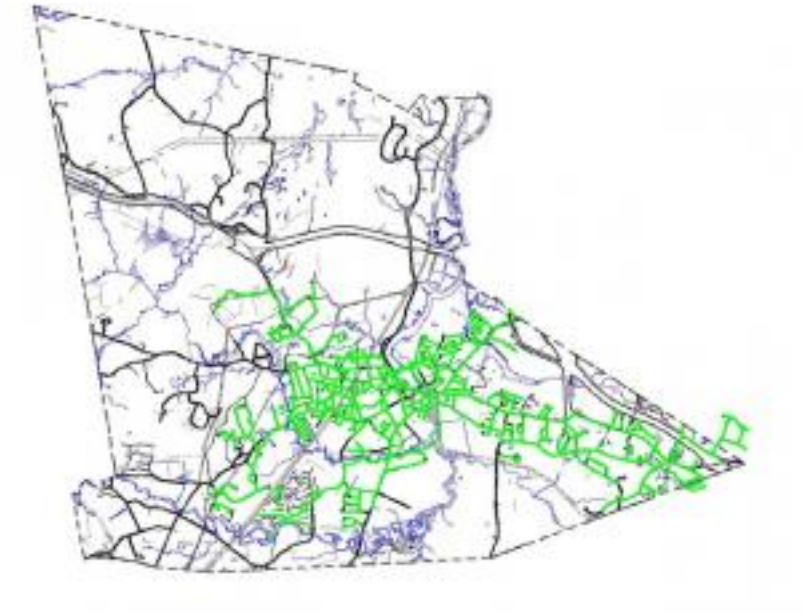
Wastewater



The Water/Sewer Division of Public Works strives to protect public health through the use of long-term planning, quality engineering, and preventative maintenance. The Water/Sewer Division is responsible for providing quality drinking water as well proper treatment of wastewater before discharged to the Squamscott River. Our services are supported by a team of 15 people to maintain wastewater treatment, water treatment, and system operations.

System operations include maintenance and upgrades for the collection and distribution infrastructure, including water and sewer mains, pump stations, water meters, and many other preventative maintenance duties. The Water/Sewer Department remains vigilant in providing reliable services and ensuring customer satisfaction.

The Town of Exeter operates the public water system within the Town limits, including a hand full of accounts in Stratham (Industrial Park) and Hampton (Phinney Lane). In addition the Town provides service to a strip of Stoneybrook Lane in Stratham. The system has approximately 3,400 accounts broken into three districts with each district receiving a quarterly bill.

The Town also operates a sewer system and issues quarterly bills based on water usage. Each account is charged a fixed quarterly fee of $28 for water and $28 for sewer ($56 total) regardless of meter size.

Municipal Wastewater Collection System

Exeter's wastewater system consists of a Wastewater Treatment Plant, approximately 49 miles of sewer pipe, 1500 manholes, nine pumping stations, and three combined sewer overflow (CSO) diversion structures.

Sewer pipes in the wastewater system range from 6-inch diameter collector pipes to a 30-inch diameter pipe which flows into the Water Street Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) structure. Sewer pipes in the wastewater system range from 6-inch diameter collector pipes to a 30-inch diameter pipe which flows into the Water Street Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) structure. Many of the smaller-sized pipes are constructed of vitrified clay and asbestos cement. The clay pipes are the oldest in the system and probably date back to the turn of the century. The asbestos cement pipes were likely constructed in the 1950s and 1960s. More recent sewer pipes are either polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or reinforced concrete.

Exeter's nine pumping stations are centrifugal with separate pump rooms (dry wells) and underground wet wells. Four of the larger pump stations have separate control rooms, pump rooms and wet well structures. Regardless of capacity, all pumping stations are controlled by an automated operator which alternates the pumps during

subsequent cycles. A central computer system provides system monitoring, control, and alarms at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the plant and the remote pumping stations.

The wastewater system experiences overflows during heavy rainstorms. It has been determined that during significant rainfall events, stormwater enters the sewer system causing overflows to occur; this is known as a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). The wastewater collection system wasn't designed to handle large amounts of water received during heavy rain events. A CSO diversion system was put in place to direct these high stormwater flows to Clemson's Holding Pond. The pond discharges through a permitted outfall and tide gates to the Squamscott River.